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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09194 101354Z

51
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 DEAE-00 SY-04 L-03 INR-10

CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /031 W
---------- 069284
O 101543Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2602

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9194

FOL TEL REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QTE
O 100627Z JUL 74
FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 9695
C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 1404

FOR CHARGE FROMPICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC PFOR IN
SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER: CHARGES

1. WHEN BILL BALL SAW HARCOS AND FLETCHER ON JULY 9, THEY EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO MEET WITH SOME OFFICIAL, EITHER GOI OR GOWB, TO DISCUSS THE CASE. THEY SAID IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF THEY COULD HAVE THE MEETING THIS WEEK OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE.

2. LATER THE SAME DAY DEFENSE LAWYER BHOSE CALLED ON ME AT MY REQUEST CONCERNING THE BAIL QUESTION. AT THAT TIME, HE ALSO MENTIONED THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE PRISONERS TO MEET WITH SOME OFFICIAL. HE SAID THEIR PUSPOSE WAS TO MAKE A STATEMENT CONFESSING THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN DRUG SMUGGLING AND DENYING THERE WAS ANYTHING ELSE INVOLVED.

3. BHOSE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY SATISFIED
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THAT THE PRISONERS ARE DRUG SMUGGLERS. HE SAID HARCOS,

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WHO IS UNMARRIED, RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER SAYING THAT HIS WIFE HAD JUST GIVEN BIRTH TO A BABY BOY. BHOSE LEARNED THAT THIS WAS A CODE MEANING THAT A CONSIGNMENT OF DRUGS HAD SAFELY REACHED ITS DESTINATION. BHOSE SAID THAT HIS WHOLE DEFENSE AGAINST CHARGES OF VIOLATION OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT WILL BE BASED ON THE CONTENTION THAT THE MEN WERE IN FACT INVOLVED IN DRUG SMUGGLING. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD HELP IF THE PRISONERS MADE A STATEMENT TO AN OFFICIAL BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIAL, HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BUT HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH IF AT THIS STAGE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE ANY SUCH STATEMENT.

4. ALSO ON JULY 9, DURING MY CALL ON THE CHIEF SECRETARY, WHEN HE ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT THE PRISONERS HAD REALLY BEEN UP TO, I AS ALWAYS, NOTED THEIR STATEMENTS THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN DRUG SMUGGLING AND SAID THIS MADE SENSE TO ME. THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID HE TOO THOUGHT THIS MUST HAVE BEEN HARCOS' PURPOSE IN GOING INTO THE PROHIBITED AREA. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANY GOWB OFFICIAL HAS MADE SUCH A COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: IT MAY BE FRUITLESS, BUT IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION, I WILL GO TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, REPORT THE PRISONERS' REQUEST MADE TO THE CONSUL, AND URGE HIM TO PERMIT THE PRISONERS TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO A GOWB OFFICIAL BEFORE THE TRIAL BEGINS. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THIS WOULD HELP GIVE THE GOWB AN EXCUSE, IF THEY ARE LOOKING FOR ONE, TO SHIFT THE BASIS OF THE CHARGES FROM THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT TO DRUG SMUGGLING.
PICKERING UNQTE SCHNEIDER

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, (HARCOS), (HARCOS, RICHARD WINN), (FLETCHER, ANTHONY ALLEN)
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